

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings and versions of claims in this application:

Claims 1. to 46. (Cancelled)

47. (Previously Presented) A tool holder for mounting to a user's clothing article, comprising:

a first support member of an injection-molded material;

a second support member connected to the first support member at a connection portion, wherein the first and second support members are configured and dimensioned for receiving and hooking around the article with the first and second support members disposed on opposite sides of the article, and at least one of the support members comprises a plurality of stiffening ribs extending therefrom and arranged substantially forming a truss that is configured for stiffening said at least one support member; and

a tool holding member mounted to one of the support members and configured for receiving and holding a portion of a handheld tool.

48. (Previously Presented) A tool holder for mounting to a user's clothing article, comprising:

a first support member of an injection-molded material;

a second support member connected to the first support member at a connection portion, wherein the first and second support members are configured and dimensioned for receiving and hooking around the article with the first and second support members disposed on opposite sides of the article; and

a tool holding member mounted to one of the support members and configured for receiving and holding a portion of a handheld tool;

wherein the first support member has a back surface facing away from the second support member and disposed for placement against a user's waist, the back surface having substantially flat portions surrounding a central area that forms a concave indentation that is curved to generally follow the curve of the user's waist.

49. (Previously Presented) The tool holder of claim 48, wherein:
the support members are connected to each other and define an article space therebetween configured to receive the article; and
the first support member has a curved surface facing the article space and disposed to contact the article received therein.

50. (Previously Presented) The tool holder of claim 47, wherein the tool holding member defines an opening to receive and hold the portion of the tool, the opening being of sufficient size to receive a hand held tool having a diameter of at least about a ½ inch.

51. (Previously Presented) The tool holder of claim 48, wherein said one support member comprises a recessed mounting portion for attaching with a correspondingly shaped mounting portion of the tool holding member.

52. (Previously Presented) A tool holder for mounting to a user's clothing article, comprising:

a first support member;

a second support member connected to the first support member at a connection portion, wherein the first and second support members have first ends opposite from the connection portion and have a configuration and are dimensioned for receiving the article through between the first ends and hooking the first and second support members around the article with the first and second support members disposed on opposite sides of the article; and

a tool holding member mounted to the second support member and having an operative position extending from the second support member for receiving and holding a portion of a hand-held tool and being retractable to a retracted position for decreasing the bulk of the tool holder,

wherein the tool holding member is disposed substantially flush against the second support member in the retracted position such that in the retracted position the holding member is substantially prevented from holding the portion of the tool.

53. (Previously Presented) The tool holder of claim 52, wherein the tool holding member is pivotally connected to the second support member for pivoting between the operative and retracted positions.

54. (Previously Presented) The tool holder of claim 53, wherein:
the second support member comprises a front face facing away from the second support member; and
the tool holding member is pivotable towards and away from the front face.

55. (Previously Presented) The tool holder of claim 50 further comprising a secondary tool holding member associated with at least one of the support members and tool holding member and configured for holding a second tool.

56. (Previously Presented) The tool holder of claim 55, wherein the secondary tool holding member defines at least one secondary tool recess configured and dimensioned for receiving and holding the secondary tool, and the tool holding portion is configured for holding a handle of the hand-held tool.

57. (Previously Presented) The tool holder of claim 56, wherein the recess has a ribbed, substantially cylindrical portion configured and dimensioned for holding a drill tip.

58. (Previously Presented) The tool holder of claim 57, wherein:
at least one of the support members defines a grasping recess that is sufficiently large to permit grasping by a user of a portion of a secondary tool disposed therein;
the secondary tool holding member is disposed for access thereto by the user in the grasping recess;
the grasping recess and secondary tool holding members being configured for holding the secondary tool in the secondary tool holding member with a graspable portion of the secondary tool protruding from the secondary tool holding member and disposed graspably within the grasping recess.

59. (Previously Presented) The tool holder of claim 55, wherein the secondary tool holding member comprises at least one resilient protrusion for engaging a recess of the secondary tool.

60. (Previously Presented) The tool holder of claim 59, wherein the secondary tool holding member comprises a plurality of resilient protrusions configured and dimensioned for engaging a socket for a socket wrench.

61. (Previously Presented) The tool holder of claim 60, wherein the resilient protrusions are movable with respect to each other to accommodate differently sized sockets.

62. (Currently Amended) The tool holder of claim 52, wherein the first and second support members are associated with first and second connection portions, respectively, and are pieces of separate construction that are joined to each other in a fixed position.

63. (Previously Presented) The tool holder of claim 62, wherein the connection portions are configured for engagement with each other.

64. (Previously Presented) The tool holder of claim 63, further comprising a locking portion associated with the support members for locking the support members together in secured association.

65. (Previously Presented) The tool holder of claim 62, wherein:
at least one of the connecting portions comprises a connecting extension; and
at least the other of the connecting portions comprises a connecting recess
configured to engage the connecting extension for securing the first and second connecting portions to each other.

66. (Currently Amended) The tool holder of claim [[22]] 62, wherein the first and second support members are substantially coupled to each other with the connecting portions in attached association.

67. (Previously Presented) The tool holder of claim 52, wherein the second support member has a front face that comprises a recess facing the tool holding member and is configured and dimensioned for receiving another portion of the tool held in the tool holding member.

68. (Previously Presented) The tool holder of claim 67, wherein the tool holding member has a generally rounded portion defining a rounded shape for holding a round portion of the tool, and the recess comprises an indentation in the second support member disposed substantially concentrically with the rounded shape of the tool holding member.

69. (Previously Presented) The tool holder of claim 52, wherein the tool holding member includes a notch configured for receiving and positioning a portion of the tool in a predetermined orientation.

70. (Previously Presented) The tool holder of claim 62, wherein at least one of the first and second support members comprises a projection facing the other of the support members for resisting removal of the tool holder from the article.

71. (Previously Presented) The tool holder of claim 47, wherein the tool holding member defines a tool space configured for receiving and holding a hand-held tool and first and second openings on opposite sides of and communicated with the tool space, wherein the first opening is larger than the second opening for receiving a larger portion of the tool than the second opening.

72. (Previously Presented) The tool holder of claim 47, wherein the second support member comprises a receiving recess, the holding member mounting portion is received and supported in the recess, and the tool holder further comprises a closure attached adjacent the

recess for closing the recess and retaining the holding member mounting portion pivotally therein.

73. (Previously Presented) The tool holder of claim 47, further comprising a mount pivotally attached to the second support member and pivotally supporting the holding member, wherein the mount has first and second portions disposed about the holding member to trap the holding member in the mount.

74. (Previously Presented) The tool holder of claim 47, further comprising a deflecting ramp disposed adjacent to the mount and configured and angled for deflecting impact from the tool as it is placed moved towards the tool holding member to be held thereby.

75. (Previously Presented) The tool holder of claim 47, wherein the retaining member is in a snap-fit association with the second support member.

76. (Previously Presented) The tool holder of claim 47, wherein the tool holding member comprises a generally U-shaped hook member configured for holding an elongated portion of a tool having a diameter of at least about 1/2 inch.

77. (Previously Presented) The tool holder of claim 47, wherein the support members are connected to each other and define an article space therebetween configured to receive the article, the first support member having substantially an S-curve shape to define a restricting space portion adjacent the article space, wherein the article space is wider than any restricting facing the restricting portion and the second support member to retain the article in the article space, the first support member curving away from the second support member toward the first end to facilitate insertion of the article from between the first ends.

78. (Previously Presented) The tool holder of claim 47, wherein the first and second ends are free ends having a configuration spaced from each other to receive the article therebetween by hooking the first and second support members around the article.

79. (Previously Presented) The tool holder of claim 47, further comprising a tool holding mount that is affixed to the a mounting portion of said one support member, the tool holding member being pivotally mounted to the mount.

80. (Previously Presented) The tool holder of claim 79, wherein the tool holding member is pivotable about two axis with respect to the mount.

81. (Previously Presented) The tool holder of claim 50, wherein the first and second support members are of separate construction.

82. (Previously Presented) The tool holder of claim 48, wherein the first and second support members are pieces of separate construction that are joined in to each other in a fixed position.

83. (Previously Presented) The tool holder of claim 47, wherein the first and second support members are pieces of separate construction that are joined in to each other in a fixed position.

84. (Previously Presented) The tool holder of claim 47, wherein the first and second support members are of injection molded plastic.